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181. Recreation facilities to the inmates, namely, radio, bhajana, football and other games were also provided.

182. The total non-recurring and recurring expenditure amounted to Rs. 45,836-8-4 and Rs. 67,948-5-1 respectively.

183. A Sub-Committee was appointed to examine the possibilities of extending the Act for the prohibition of beggary to District Headquarter Towns and also to suggest measures for making the Beggar Relief Scheme more effective.

Mysore Relief Committee.

184. The activities of the Local Relief Committee was started from May 1949. The Committee was reconstituted for a further period of three years from 1st July 1953.

185. With the help of the Police Department, the scouting of beggars was undertaken.

186. Out of 1,010 beggars, 894 were released bythe officer-in-charge, 4 by the Magistrate, 74 transferred to the relief centre, one escaped and 3 sent to hospital leaving a closing balance of 34 beggars at the Beggar home.

(ix) Village Panchayets and Rural Development.

187. The total number of Village Panchayets in the State during the year was 12,756 (12,603). The increase is due to the merger of seven taluks of the Bellary District in the State. The number of meetings held by the Village Panchayets was 29,084 (83,388).

188. Proposals for the construction of Group Panchayets were notified during 1952-53. The objections received in response to the notification were considered by Government and the constitution of Group Panchayets decided during the year.

Demand, Collection and Balance of V. P. taxes.

189. Including the arrears, the total demand of the Village Panchayet taxes amounted to Rs. 52,74,967 (42,28,078) of which a sum of Rs. 26,95,600 (15,41,289) was collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 25,79,367 (26,86,789).

Financial position of the Village Panchayets.

190. A sum of Rs. 42,81,349 (50,75,791) was at the credit of the Village Panchayets at the beginning of the year. This with the income for the year of Rs. 39,01,778 (14,86,450) amounted to a total of Rs. 81,83,127 (65,62,241)

of which a sum of Rs. 16,87,164 (21,29,113) was spent during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 64,95,963 (44,33,128) at the credit of the Village Panchayets at the end of the year.

191. With the assignment of a portion of the Land Revenue to the District Boards and Village Panchayets under the Village Panchayets and District Boards Act of 1952, the practice of making large grants for Rural Communications, Rural Water Supply, and Rural Health and Sanitation was stopped. The work of attending to rural communications is made the responsibility of the District Boards. Grants of Rs. 3 lakhs were sanctioned during the year under Rural Water Supply and Rural Health and Sanitation for the settlement of pending bills of the previous years.

192. Three hundred and ninety-one (627) drinking water wells were completed during the year at an outlay of Rs. 1,84,554 (Rs. 10,04,493) and 3,151 (2,660) wells remained to be completed at the end of the year. Of this number, 2,315 wells were under various stages of progress and 836 wells remained to be taken up for execution. Rural Water Supply.

193. A sum of Rs. 5,14,397 was spent during the year on the execution of public works. Public Works.

194. The accounts of 587 (1,343) Village Panchayets were audited during the year. Audit.

195. The system of weekly labour was in vogue in 649 (2,390) villages and the value of works done amounted to Rs. 1,04,105 (Rs. 1,50,266). Eighty-four Village Panchayets laid out parks, 24 Village Panchayets have fruit gardens, 33 Village Panchayets planted fruit and shade trees and 157 Village Panchayets arranged weekly visits of doctors. Sixty-five Village Panchayets were managing village forests, and 166 (196) village extensions were formed. One thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (1,253) Village Panchayets have libraries or reading rooms functioning. One hundred and thirty-one Village Panchayets have availed electric power. Weekly labour.

196. During the year, a large number of "Local Development Works" were sanctioned for execution by the Village Panchayets under a scheme sponsored by the Planning Commission in order to evoke wide public Local Development Works.

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support to the Five-Year Plan and to canalise public enthusiasm for drawing forth local initiative and resources for small works of local utility. Road and drainage works, construction of school and dispensary buildings, community halls, well works, etc., numbering 345 were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 5,39,280. Of these, 162 works were taken up for execution and an outlay of Rs. 1,05,022 was incurred during the year.

(x) Amelioration of the condition of the Depressed Classes.

197. During the year, a separate Department with a Commissioner as the head was organised for looking after the work of amelioration of Depressed Classes. In addition to the expenditure on the establishment of the Department, a sum of Rs. 19 lakhs was sanctioned for the formation of extensions and assistance for the construction of houses by the Depressed Classes. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 was diverted for providing Educational facilities, such as construction of hostels and grant of scholarships to students undergoing training in technical Institutions, and also for grant of loans to the members of the Depressed Classes for improvement of agriculture, cottage industries, etc. The construction of four hostel buildings at Kolar, Mysore, Tumkur and Nanjangud was sanctioned and the work on the buildings at Kolar and Tumkur was started. A sum of Rs. 1,88,736 was granted as loans to members of the Depressed Classes to assist them in agriculture, cottage industries and animal husbandry occupations.

198. Out of the allotment of Rs. 15 lakhs for housing, a sum of Rs. 14,51,208 (Rs. 18,15,516) was spent. During the year, 206 (215) cases of land acquisition for extensions for Depressed Classes were sanctioned and 4,814 (5,320) houses were constructed with the help of Government subventions. One *Bhajana Mandir* was completed in Hassan district and two are under construction in the same district. A total extent of 10,877 (11,550 acres and 5 guntas) acres of land was granted to 1,237 Depressed Class applicants in the State. One residential agricultural colony for the Adikarnatakas was sanctioned at Hangaladahosalli in Gundlupet Taluk during the year and work is under way for the formation of the same.